



Ministry of Northern
Development and Mines

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News Release

Ministry of Northern Development and Mines

January 08, 2007 - 003

Ontario Invests In Reconstruction Of Matachewan Bridge

Project Part Of Unprecedented Investment In Northern Highways Program

NEW LISKEARD – This year's record investment in northern highways by the Ontario government includes a contract worth more than \$10 million for the construction of a new bridge on Highway 566 in Matachewan. Timiskaming-Cochrane MPP David Ramsay made the announcement today on behalf of Northern Development and Mines Minister Rick Bartolucci.

"We are committed to ensuring that our highway infrastructure, including bridges, is kept in optimal condition for use by local residents, commercial traffic and tourists," said Ramsay. "With this investment we are reaffirming our government's commitment to making Ontario's highways, roads and bridges safer and more reliable."

The project involves the construction of a new steel and concrete bridge to replace the aging Highway 566 timber bridge, which spans the Montreal River in Matachewan. The project will involve the construction of a new guide rail, curb and gutters and the elimination of two sharp curves at the east approach to the bridge, improving both ride quality and safety. A contract in the amount of \$10,920,000 has been awarded to Miller Paving Northern of New Liskeard. The reconstruction is now underway and is expected to be completed in the autumn of 2007.

"We are on the side of northerners. That's why we are helping to ensure the North is connected by a network of safe and efficient highways," said Bartolucci. "Renewing vital highway infrastructure is just one way we are making the North a more vibrant place to live and do business."

"Good roads are essential to the growth of northern communities," said Transportation Minister Donna Cansfield. "By improving the safety of our highways we are helping to create jobs and foster prosperity throughout Northern Ontario."

The commitment to expand and rehabilitate northern highways was set out in ReNew Ontario, the province's five-year strategic infrastructure investment plan that will help prepare the North for future growth.

The Ontario government is renewing and expanding vital highway infrastructure as part of its Northern Prosperity Plan. The plan is founded on four key pillars including: Strengthening the North and its Communities; Listening to and Serving Northerners Better; Competing Globally; and Providing Opportunities for All.

Since 2003, investments in infrastructure, postsecondary education, research and innovation and key economic sectors have helped strengthen Ontario's economic foundations and continue to build opportunity.

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